



# *Indianapolis Center for Congregations*

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## *Resources for: Building Healthy Small Congregations*

Our mission is to assist Greater Indianapolis Area congregations in finding and using the very best resources available to address the practical challenges they face. This resource list was developed to supplement a workshop, *Working Towards Healthy Small Congregations*, sponsored by the Center and led by Terry Foland, Senior Consultant at The Alban Institute.

Foland has more than twenty-five years of experience as a trainer, consultant, and administrator in churches and church-related organizations. His areas of expertise include conflict management, clergy-lay relations, role clarification, and yoked ministries. Foland recommends the following resources for small congregations.

Mead, Loren B. *More than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow*. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 1993.

Mead explores what church growth and evangelism really mean in a time when it is mathematically impossible for every congregation to achieve significant numerical growth. He argues provocatively that spiritual, organizational, and missional growth are just as important as numerical growth, and that all four are needed for a truly healthy and growing church.

Pappas, Anthony G. *Entering the World of the Small Church*. 2d ed. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 2000.

Discover how to enter, lead, and guide others into the world of the small church. Like an anthropologist, Pappas leads readers to understand the small church on its own terms, and describes the habits he finds at the heart of this "folk society."

The Center is interested in holding ongoing conversations with you. We invite your feedback as you use these and other resources to build healthy small congregations.